

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 16219 02 OF 02 111121Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07

INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 DRC-01

DPW-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-15 ARA-16 /164 W

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P R 110945Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6961

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

DML/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3262

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 16219 02 OF 02 111121Z

USDAO SAIGON

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CO 7TH PSYOP

CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 16219

PART II. EXTERNAL

A. NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

EFFORTS BY GVN TO PREVENT SEATING OF PRG AT ALGIERS NONALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING (SEPT 5-8) WERE TO NO AVAIL AS VIET CONG DEL WAS ACCEPTED AS A MATTER OF COURSE WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR CHALLENGE. GVN ACTIONS HAD INCLUDED SENDING OF SPECIAL ENVOYS TO AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA TO ENLIST SUPPORT AND DESPATCH OF TELEGRAM FROM PRS THIEU TO SECY GEN OF NONALIGNED MEETING CONTESTING PRG'S RIGHT TO BE THERE. DURING CONF ITSELF, GVN SPOKESMAN, INCLUDING ACTING FONMIN DUC, QUESTIONED VALIDITY OF NONALIGNED CONCEPT, PRAISED STATEMENT TO SAME EFFECT MADE AT CONF BY LIBYA'S PRES GHADAFI, AND DENOUNCED ALGERIAN DRAFT RES IN SUPPORT OF PRG'S STRUGGLE.

B. GVN/PRG BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

TWENTY-FOURTH (24TH) PLENARY SESSION ON SEPT 4 WAS ONE OF SHORTEST ON RECORD AS GVN DENOUNCED PRG USE OF CONSULTATIONS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES AND PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FOLLOWING WEEK, WHILE PRG, REPRESENTED BY DEP DEL HEAD, ACCUSED US AND GVN OF ASSORTED VIOLATIONS AND SABOTAGE OF PARIS AGREEMENTS. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 13.

C. PRES THIEU'S TRIP TO THAILAND RESCHEDULED

PRES THIEU'S TRIP TO THAILAND IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BE A STATE VISIT IN EARLY NOVEMBER. GVN SPOKESMEN HAVE STATED THAT PRES THIEU WILL VISIT MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY THIS YEAR. PURPOSE OF VISIT TO THAILAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES IS TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR AID
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 16219 02 OF 02 111121Z

RENDERED TO GVN.

D. CASTRO TO VISIT HANOI

THE FRV FONMIN ANNOUNCED ON SEPT 8 THAT, ON INVITATION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PARTY AND GOVT, CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO WOULD VISIT HANOI "IN THE NEAR FUTURE". (SEE FBIS SAIGON 081051Z SEP 73). ACCORDING TO RADIO DACCA, CASTRO WILL PROCEED TO HANOI AFTER A "SHORT VISIT" TO INDIA (SEE FBIS BANGKOK 050701 SEP 73).

E. FOREIGN AMBASSADORS DEPART HANOI

VIET-NAM NEWS AGENCY ON SEPT 7 REPORTED THAT 'ABD MAWLUD KAMIL

AND JENO JAKUS, AMB OF IRAQ AND HUNGARY, RESPECTIVELY, HAD MADE FAREWELL CALLS ON NATIONAL ASSEM CHAIRMAN TRUONG CHINH. BOTH ENVOYS ARE RETURNING HOME FOR REASSIGNMENT.

F. VIET CONG REGIME TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THREE MORE NATIONS

THE VIET CONG'S "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG)" WILL SOON BE RECOGNIZED BY THREE MORE NATIONS ACCORDING TO FOREIGN NEWS REPORTS. ALGIERS RADION REPORTED ON SEPT 9 THAT MALTA AND ZAMBIA HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WITH THE PRG. PEKING'S NCNA, IN A SEPT 7 DESPATCH, SAID THAT GABON'S PRES BONGO HAS PROMISED TO RECOGNIZE THE PRG UPON HIS RETURN HOME. VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE NOT YET BEEN HEAR TO MENTION THESE NEW RECOGNITIONS.

G. IET CONG REBUT GVN CHARGES ON CHINESE AID SHIPMENT

THE VIET CONG FONMIN IN A SEPT 7 STATEMENT LABELLED AS "ODIOUS, SLANDEROUS ALLEGATIONS" THE GVN'S COMPLAINTS THAT A SEPT 1 DELIVERY OF "ECONOMIC AID" GOODS BY A CHINESE SHIP AT CUA VIET PORT VIOLATED VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE STATEMENT CLAIMED THAT ACCEPTING SUCH AID SHIPMENTS FELL WITH THE "PRG'S" COMPETENCE IN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THAT THE GVN'S CONTENTIONS TO THE CONTRARY WERE AIMED AT CONCEALING CONTINUED US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN SVN AND THE (ILLEGAL" INTRODUCTION OF WAR MATERIAL INTO SVN RELATED THERETO.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 16219 02 OF 02 111121Z

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III. ECONOMIC

A. PRICES

THE USAID RETAIL PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPT 10, ROSE 1.2 PERCENT OVERALL. IT WAS THE FIRST INCREASE IN FOUR WEEKS, ATTRIBUTABLE MAINLY TO SPURTING RICE PRICES DEFYING GOVT-CONTROLS. THE FOOD INDEX CLIMBED 1.8 PERCENT, WHILE NONFOOD ITEMS REMAINED UNCHANGED. MEDIUM AND HIGH QUALITY RICE PRICES WERE UP 2-6 PERCENT, ALONG WITH CHICKEN (5 PERCENT) AND DUCK (3 PERCENT). PARTLY OFFSETTING THESE GAINS WERE SHARP DECLINES IN SHRIMP (8 PERCENT) AND FISH (9 PERCENT). PRICES.

B. BLACK MARKET CURRENCY AND GOLD PRICES

BLACK MARKET CURRENCY RATES ROSE AGAIN THIS WEEK IN RESPONST TO THE GVN ANNOUNCEMENT SEPT 6 OF ANOTHER PERIODIC INCREASE IN THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE. AS THE OFFICIAL RATE ROSE FROM 500 TO 510:\$1,

THE BLACK MARKET QUOTES FOR \$100 GREEN MOVED FROM 506:1 TO 515:1, US\$10 GREEN STOOD AT 510:1. MEANWHILE, GOLD LEAF PRICES CONTINUED UPWARD, FROM \$59,500 TO 61,000 PER TAEI.

C. SHRIMP EXPORTS CONTINUE HIGH DESPITE JAPANESE EMBARGO

THE JAPANESE EMBARGO HAS HURT BUT NOT PARALYZED VIETNAM'S SHRIMP EXPORTS WHICH CONTINUE AT A MONTHLY RATE CONSIDERABLY IN EXCESS OF THAT OF THE PAST YEAR. THE IMPACT OF THE EMBARGO WAS CUSHIONED BY THE GRADUAL INCREASE, THROUGHOUT 72 AND 73, IN HONG KONG'S SHARE IN VIETNAM'S SHRIMP EXPORTS. BY DEC 72--I.E. FIVE MONTHS BEFORE THE DIOXIN STORY BROKE--HONG KONG REPLACED JAPAN AS PRINCIPAL PURCHASER OF VIETNAM'S SHRIMP. THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS SHIFT WAS THE APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE EXPORTERS WHO FOUND IT EASIER TO SELL IN THE HONG KONG MARKET THAN IN JAPAN BECAUSE OF THE MORE MODEST QUALITY AND SIZE REQUIREMENTS THERE AND THE GREATER EASE OF MAKING CONTACTS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT SOME OF THE VIETNAMESE SHRIMP EXPORTED TO HONG KONG IS REPACKAGED THERE AND REEXPORTED TO JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

PAGE 05 SAIGON 16219 02 OF 02 111121Z

DESTINATIONS.

ASSUMING CONTINUATION OF BOTH THE JAPANESE EMBARGO AND CURRENT EXPORT TRENDS THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR, 73 FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM SHRIMP EXPORTS SHOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF US\$10-12 MILLION OR SOMEWHAT MORE THAN DOUBLE THE 72 LEVEL.

A SIGNIFICANT SUSTAINED EXPANSION OF SHRIMP EXPORTS IS DEPENDENT LESS ON THE LIFTING OF THE JAPANESE EMBARGO THAN ON THE ABILITY OF VIETNAMESE PRODUCERS TO INCREASE THE CATCH AND UPGRADE THE PRODUCT WHICH HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE PROLIFERATION OF PROCESSING FACILITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR.

APPLING

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